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WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 1915.

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Riggs Bank Accuses High U.S. Officials; Asks An Injunction

Secretary of Treasury McAdoo and Comptroller Williams Charged with Malicious Persecution Aimed at Wrecking Washington Concern.

MUST SHOW CAUSE FRIDAY

Defendants Say Their Actions Averted Disaster—
Plaintiff Asserts No Suggestions for Reform Were
Made, But That Government Officials Deliberately Set Out to Destroy Institution.

By JOSEPH P. ANNIN.

Baldly charging Secretary of the Treasury William Gibbs McAdoo and Comptroller of the Currency John Skelton Williams with malicious persecution directed with a view to wrecking the Riggs National Bank, a bill in equity was filed by the bank yesterday through its attorneys, ex-Senator Joseph W. Bailey and Frank J. Hogan, petitioning the District Supreme Court for an injunction protecting the bank from the alleged persecution.

Replying to the charges in a brief public statement last night, Comptroller Williams declared, in part:

"The recent investigations of the affairs of the Riggs National Bank disclosed irregularities and unlawful practices on the part of certain officers of sufficient importance to merit their reference to the Department of Justice, and that department engaged the services of Louis D. Brandeis, of Boston, some weeks ago as special counsel in the case. It is consistent with the attitude of those officers to attempt by unwarranted and untrue statements to place themselves and the bank in a position of martyrdom at the hands of the administration."

Yesterday furnished a sensational denouement to a controversy between Secretary McAdoo and Comptroller Williams and the Riggs National Bank, which dates back to the earliest stages of the present administration. That the controversy existed was well known, but that it should find such sensational publicity is a development as unexpected as the proverbial bolt from the blue.

Justice McCoy, in the District Supreme Court, issued a temporary restraining order and rule for a preliminary injunction returnable at 10 o'clock Friday morning. Immediately after the order was signed, Charles C. Glover, president of the Riggs National Bank, and Willis W. Parker, local agent of the Southwestern Surety Company, signed bond.

The order signed by Justice McCoy among other rules requires the defendants to show cause "why they shall not be enjoined pending this suit further retaining from the plaintiff the said \$5,000 interest money; the defendant Williams particularly from revoking plaintiff's designation as a depository for the reserves of other national banks, or from refusing to approve the plaintiff bank as such a depository."

BAD BLOOD BETWEEN WILLIAMS AND RIGGS OFFICIALS.

There has been bad blood between Secretary McAdoo and President Glover, Comptroller Williams and Milton E. Ailes, vice president of the Riggs Bank, for years. At one time Baltimore financiers displaced Mr. Williams from the directorate of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad and elected Mr. Ailes to his place. That Mr. Williams had not forgotten this when he assumed the duties of Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, the financial world soon saw.

The allegations contained in the bill, together with those contained in a letter from officers of the Riggs Bank to Comptroller of the Currency Williams, are sensational in the extreme. In a word, the charges are that the bank, which at this time only because of an attack by a New York newspaper upon Mr. Williams in connection with the assistance rendered the United States Trust Company in 1913 by the Munsey Trust Company, which article Secretary McAdoo and Comptroller Williams publicly charged officers of the Riggs Bank with being responsible for, these two officials deliberately started out to do everything in their power to undermine and wreck the Riggs National Bank.

This determination, according to the allegation, was indicated at the conclusion of a stormy interview between Secretary McAdoo and President Glover, and Vice Presidents Milton E. Ailes and William J. Flaherty.

Disregarding Mr. Ailes' denial of any responsibility for the objectionable article, according to the bill, Secretary McAdoo, according to Mr. Ailes, "will order you out of my office" and, turning to President Glover, of the bank, "Mr. Glover, you know what this means to the Riggs National Bank."

Since that time, according to the bill, the Riggs National Bank has been subjected to a continuous persecution at the hands of the Comptroller of the Currency, a persecution which has become so intense that the bank, which at this time only because of an attack by a New York newspaper upon Mr. Williams in connection with the assistance rendered the United States Trust Company in 1913 by the Munsey Trust Company, which article Secretary McAdoo and Comptroller Williams publicly charged officers of the Riggs Bank with being responsible for, these two officials deliberately started out to do everything in their power to undermine and wreck the Riggs National Bank.

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BIPLANE DASHES PEOLI TO DEATH

Young Aviator Killed at College Park in Machine of Own Invention.

Hoped to Sell Aeroplane to Navy Department After Trial Flight.

Crushed Under Wreck

When the machine rose about 100 feet in the air it was seen that something was wrong. The rear of the biplane began to sink and then it crashed to the ground, with Peoli beneath it.

The Peoli machine was constructed at a Washington aeroplane factory. It embodied many new features. It was the purpose of the inventor to sell it to the Navy Department in case it met certain specifications. The biplane had been given tests at College Park for the past ten days, and Peoli yesterday attempted to make a trial flight.

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OFFICIALS GRAVE; SEEK AUTHORSHIP OF GERMAN NOTE

Hope Foreign Office Did Not Authorize Discourteous Wording.

UP TO VON BERNSTORFF?

Fear Ambassador Accurately Represented Spirit of His Government.

GERARD ORDERED TO INQUIRE

Serious Consequences May Be Aim of Kaiser's Advisers in Dealings with United States.

The United States government is endeavoring to ascertain whether the extraordinary language used by Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, in the memorandum he filed at the State Department on Monday last was the language of the Ambassador or whether it was authorized by the German foreign office.

The action which will be taken by the State Department will depend on the result of inquiries which, it is understood, were instituted yesterday at Berlin by Ambassador Gerard.

While no official statement as to the authorization of the memorandum has been forthcoming to the State Department, it is stated impersonally at the German Embassy, that the document was authorized by the German government.

If the German foreign office stands by the undiplomatic language of the note, an issue will be created the outcome of which no diplomatic official of the department is willing to forecast.

Bryan Grave and Guarded.

Secretary Bryan discussed the memorandum in a very grave and guarded manner. He declined to state whether a reply would be made to the German Ambassador or to the German government.

Mr. Bryan precluded exact inquiry by announcing that all he could say was that "the subject was under consideration."

Mr. Bryan's position seemed to be that the government was not undertaking at present a reply to the German government or to the Ambassador, but was fixing its attention on the character and publication of the Bernstorff memorandum. The opinion of the most of the department officials is that technicalities as to the arguments raised by the Ambassador are beside the question, which really is, they say, what authority of defense there is for the language of the memorandum. In view of the inconsistency between the position taken by Ambassador Bernstorff in his memorandum and that taken by the German government itself in the reply made to the American demand for indemnity in the Frye case, the hope was expressed by some officials that Germany might relieve the United States of the necessity of registering a complaint against the character of the Bernstorff communication.

At the same time, in private conversation, officials drew attention to the similarity between the angry outbursts of the Bernstorff memorandum and the strictures of the German government's note on the case of Odenwald at San Juan, and pointed out three distinct indications of bad faith against the United States government.

The State Department is now preparing a reply to the allegations that the Odenwald was "attacked by American guns." Being fired on "even after her machinery had been stopped."

Continuing Purpose Feared.

The swift sequence of the strong language in the Odenwald note and the Bernstorff memorandum of Sunday have led some of the officials to believe that there was a continuing purpose in the declaration of the Ambassador in charging bad faith and incapacity against the United States.

The Bernstorff memorandum and the Odenwald note, it is pointed out, are merely climaxes of a series of complaints from Germany. Their great significance and seriousness in the minds of officials of the State Department lies, principally, in the fact that the language in which they are couched wipes out the line of distinction which previously existed between the character of criticism leveled against the United States government by the German propaganda and the criticism which the German government felt it was justified in making. The ending of that distinction, they fear, may produce some grave consequences.

"It appears that the Bernstorff memorandum came to the attention of Secretary of State Bryan officially for the first time yesterday. He has been absent for about a week. The Bernstorff memorandum was given to the State Department on April 1. Mr. Bryan said yesterday that the first he knew of it was when he read in the paper on Saturday."

HUERTA REACHES N. Y.; ON PLEASURE BENT, HE ASSERTS

Former Dictator Says He Will Leave in Thirty Days.

REVOLT RUMORS ABROAD

Fresh Invasion of Mexico Said to Be Real Mission.

HE MAY COME TO WASHINGTON

Traveling Companion Says General May Visit Capital During Stay in United States.

Special to The Washington Herald.

New York, April 12.—Gen. Victoriano Huerta, former President of Mexico, whose refusal to salute the American flag brought about the United States occupation of Vera Cruz, arrived in New York late this afternoon on the Spanish Line steamship Antonio Lopez from Cadiz.

Compelled before being permitted to land to make affidavit that he would do nothing while here to involve the neutrality of the United States, Huerta came ashore with Abraham Ratner, one of his traveling companions, who was expelled from Mexico by the late President Madero for supplying arms and ammunition to Pascual Orozco and later under the Huerta regime returned to Tampico, where he was an agent for Huerta in the shipment of war material.

Just "Pleasure" Bent.

Huerta went to the Ansonia, where a series of important conferences with Mexican refugees on the situation in Mexico will be held during the next few weeks.

Huerta, before the immigration authorities, to whom he made his affidavit, that his stay in the United States would be limited to thirty days, that he is here for pleasure and to attend to some personal business and will return to Spain within the time specified, probably on the same ship which brought him here.

There are persistent rumors, however, that Huerta's real mission here is to prepare for a fresh invasion of Mexico. He is known to have been in conference recently with wealthy Mexican refugees in Paris, and is believed to have a message from Don Porfirio Diaz, the former President, as to plans for restoring the old regime at Mexico City. Felix Diaz, nephew of Don Porfirio Diaz, who has lived for some time in the United States, is one of those with whom Huerta will have an early conference.

"No Place for Me."

In line with the belief that a fresh revolution is impending was the statement made at the steamer pier today by Capt. Ruiz Nunez, one of Huerta's old officers, who met him.

"Now watch us all go back," he said. "Remember that Huerta had just pledged himself not to create any fresh trouble."

Huerta himself, when asked about the possibility of his return to the scenes of his old activities, replied:

"Mexico is no place for an old man like me at this time. The country is in such a terrible state that it would be unwise for me to go there at present."

Through his secretary, Huerta denied that he had seen Don Porfirio Diaz during his stay abroad. Asked if he expected to see Felix Diaz, he replied: "I always see every one who calls on me."

May Come to Capital.

There was no member of the Mexican colony at quarantine to meet the former President. But at the steamer pier there was a small crowd of his sympathizers, who gave him a thin cheer as he walked down the plank.

There he met in succession Gen. Quiroz and Orizuela and Senor Serrada, personal friends, and Eugenio Paredez, former treasurer of the Mexican government under the Huerta administration. A secret service man named Barrales, representing the Cuban Minister at Washington, also met Huerta, with a pointed inquiry as to whether he intended to visit Havana. Huerta replied that he did not.

Huerta gave